



Infection Control Policy - Staff

Purpose of Policy

This policy is designed to ensure that a safe, healthy environment is maintained at Little Dreams Nursery. The nursery recognises that infections can spread quickly amongst children in childcare environment therefore we will endeavour to ensure that infections are controlled, and good health and hygiene practices are maintained.

Who is Responsible?

It is the responsibility of management to ensure that any children, parents, and members of staff who have a contagious illness are excluded from the nursery for the recommended period of time.

The manager has a responsibility to inform parents and carers when their child enters the setting with a contagious illness, the manager must also inform all parents if more than 10% of the children attending the setting have a contagious illness.

All members of staff have a responsibility to ensure that any children who arrive at the setting unwell the child's parent carer must speak to management / senior staff before a decision is made and whether the child should remain at nursery or go home.

All members of staff have a responsibility to ensure that they do not attend the session if they have an infectious illness, this will assist Little Dreams Nursery to prevent the spread of any infectious illness.

If a member of staff is unwell, they must inform management via telephone before 7.30am on the day of illness. The staff member must phone again before 4.30 the same day to discuss with management their returning to work. All exclusion periods must be adhered to.

On return to work the member of staff will receive a "back to work" interview with a member of management where attendance and illness will be discussed and any further steps that may need to be taken such as disciplinary action.

Exclusion Guidelines

In cases where a child, parent or member of staff is known to have contracted a contagious illness or infection that could affect other children or staff the nursery will implement the following exclusion guidelines:

- Any child who has an illness that results in a greater need for care than members of staff can provide and who may be placing other children at risk will be excluded until such time as treatment has been received and the child is feeling better.
- Any member of staff who has an illness that affects their ability to carry out their duties and who may be placing children or other members of staff at risk will be excluded until such time as treatment has been received and they are feeling better.
- Any child or member of staff showing signs of fever, lethargy, or difficulty breathing or any other manifestations of severe illness will be excluded until such time as a diagnosis has been made and treatment received, and they are feeling better.
- Gastric upset: exclusion for 48 hours after last attack of vomiting or diarrhoea.

- Rash with fever or behavioural change: exclusion until medical advice has been sought and a determination of further infection is made.
- Fever/Throat infections: exclusion until 24 hours after fever has gone down.
- Shingles: exclusion until lesions are crusted
- Impetigo: exclusion for at least 48 hours after treatment has been received and spots are no longer weeping fluid
- Head lice: exclusion until treatment has been given
- Ring worm: those who have the infection in an exposed area such as the scalp and hands will be excluded for 1 week and permitted to return only after treatment has commenced. Those who have the infection on an area of the body that can be covered with clothing can return within 24 hours of starting treatment. They should not share clothing or towels and wash hands thoroughly after using the toilet and before eating.
- Threadworm: can return once treatment has been received.
- Hand, foot, and mouth disease: exclusion until treatment has been received and last lesion has disappeared.
- Influenza: exclusion until clinically well
- Chicken Pox: exclusion until last crop of spots has appeared, usually 5 - 7 days
- Rubella: exclusion for 7 days after onset of rash
- Mumps: exclusion until 9 days after the first appearance of symptoms (most notable symptom is swelling of the glands)
- Whooping Cough: exclusion for 5 days if antibiotic course has been completed, if antibiotics have not been given exclusion will be 14 days
- Meningitis: exclusion until clinically well

All infectious illnesses must be reported to the manager who will advise of any exclusion period and make the decision to inform other parents and staff members. In certain circumstances the Care Inspectorate Officer for the setting may also be informed.

